
*Journal of
World Buddhist Cultures*

Purpose of the Journal

The Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures at the Ryukoku University was established with the aim of forming an international research institute for Buddhism, which could respond to serious problems of modern world. It is the important mission of the Center to accomplish a wide variety of academic projects on Buddhism and thereby contribute to this increasingly globalized society. All knowledge is expected to be transformed into information in such globalized society. Thus, since being established last year, the Center also has aspired to publish an electronic journal and disseminate the research results widely in order to attain its main purpose. They seem the indispensable devices for the Center to mutually interact with researchers, Buddhists, and adherents of other religious traditions outside Japan, or to cooperate with foreign universities and research institutes.

In order not to miss the global trends of internationalization and informatization, the Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures starts a new electronic journal, *Journal of World Buddhist Cultures*. In its long history, the Ryukoku University has gradually accumulated the broad knowledge and characteristics concerning Buddhism. The Center hopes to develop further and disseminate them actively all over the world by means of this electronic journal, through which the Center will also attempt to encourage international intellectual exchange even more and seek the solution to various problems of the people who live in contemporary society.

In contemporary society, a sense of values is significantly diversified and complicated, and we are hardly able to recognize what is “true” indeed. *Journal of World Buddhist Cultures* will include not only scholarly articles on Buddhism but also those which respond, as a kind of guide, to various urgent problems that arise in every part of the world. Buddhism has been circulated all over the world over a long period of time more than 2500 years. The Center will widely invite the papers in which this universal religion is discussed from a “global point of view.”

In addition, *Journal of World Buddhist Culture* will also include the reviews of books on Buddhism, records of lectures organized by the Center, and a wide variety of translation works. It especially welcomes a paper written in English. Through this electronic journal, the Center strongly hopes to form the international platform for Buddhist Studies and contribute to their further development.

Objective of the Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures, Ryukoku University

1. Comprehensive Academic Research of Buddhism.

Our objective is to contribute to the advancement of academic research on Buddhist philosophy, history, and culture and other relevant fields while searching for ways to respond to the problems facing our modern world. By using effective and appropriate research methodology, we aim to explore Buddhist topics that meet the needs and concerns of our modern world.

2. Interdisciplinary Research that Combines the Three Fields of “Humanity, Science, and Religion” and the Creation of a New Wisdom.

By combining the three fields of “humanity, science, and religion” we will explore the prospects of creating a new wisdom for the 21st century. We will aim at becoming a global research hub where scholars both from Japan and abroad can converse and interact in order to provide guidelines that can help address social issues and global crises from the standpoint of Buddhism.

3. Building a Global Platform for Buddhist Studies.

By collaborating with universities and research institutions in Asia, America, and Europe, we will carry out projects with overseas scholars, Buddhist priests, and academics of religion. We will then publish our research results through our website and publications and provide them in English and other languages. Also, by using the Information and Communication Technology (ICT), we will connect ourselves with overseas universities and research institutions in real time in both the graduate and undergraduate programs. In addition, we will build a system that can quickly respond to requests from overseas research institutions who may ask for information about local historical sites by employing various views from across the university.

4. Benefitting the Undergraduate and Graduate Schools’ Education with the Research Results.

By collaborating with the curriculum for each academic area, we will aim at building an integrated program that spans across the departments. We will also promote participation in educational collaboration programs not only within our university but with other educational institutions as well. We will recruit limited-term research fellows from the graduate and post-graduate programs in and outside of our university, providing research grants (scholarships) and publishing their findings online or on print.

Significance of the Publication of *Journal of World Buddhist Cultures* in the Center

The Research Center for World Buddhist Cultures consists of following three research divisions: Basic Research Division, Applied Research Division, and International Research Division. Among them, the International Research Division plays a central role for the publication of this electronic journal.



International Research Division

This division will be responsible for sharing information about the overall activities of the center to the international community while continuing the project of translating and publishing Buddhist canons and texts that were originally carried out by the Research Institute for Buddhist Culture. In addition to the publication of E-journal and website management, the division will promote exchanges with overseas scholars, other Buddhists, and religious specialists through the Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The division will encourage collaboration with universities and research institutes in different parts of the world and engage in the sponsorship of international symposiums that will invite scholars from overseas.

As religion becomes more global and multi-dimensional in contemporary society, there has been a growing awareness of the need for inter-religious dialogue. The division will encourage these conversations and interactions by collaborating with various religious research institutions abroad. With the theme of “inter-faith education” the division will carryout research at institutions of higher education.

In the international context of inter-religious dialogue this division will explore how Japanese Buddhist ideology is viewed in the eyes of the outside world as well as what Japanese Buddhism can further contribute to inter-religious education. Through these activities, the division will work as its core focus to not only develop young scholars to understand the importance of having an international mindset but also to promote global interactions of scholars.